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Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Year Ending December 31

1976

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Annual Report

OF THE TOWN OFFICERS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS—1976

Moderator: Bruce J. Enderson

Town Clerk: Jacob W. Aldrich

Selectmen:

James W. Elliott
William J. Harris
James J. Page

Term Expires 1977
Term Expires 1978
Term Expires 1979

Treasurer: Priscilla T. Boutin

Tax Collector: Maxine M. Tyler

Supervisors of the Checklist:

Jeanette C. Enderson
John G. Elliott, Sr.
Laura Mason

Term Expires 1978
Term Expires 1980
Term Expires 1982

Trustees of Trust Funds:

David W. Harris
Scott E. Roden
Joseph N. Boutin, Sr.

Term Expires 1977
Term Expires 1978
Term Expires 1979

Constable: Thomas F. Fenn

Auditor: Robert E. Longpre

Sexton: David W. Harris

Surveyor of Wood and Lumber: William J. Harris

Overseer of Public Welfare: Maxine M. Tyler

Health Officer: Thomas F. Fenn

Planning Board:

Jean T. Longpre, Secretary
John G. Elliott, Jr., Chairman
Seraphene R. Harris
Thomas F. Fenn
James J. Page

Term Expires 1977
Term Expires 1978
Term Expires 1979
Term Expires 1980
Term Expires 1979

Ballot Clerks:

Iona V. Boutin

William J. Harris

Ballot Inspector: Katie J. Goodwin

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in Town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next (the 8th) at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Town Clerk; one Selectman for a term of three years; one Treasurer; one Tax Collector; one Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three years; one Auditor; one Sexton; and all other necessary Town officers and agents for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to establish the office of Deputy Collector.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$158.42 as the Town's share for construction of highways (Town Road Aid) as provided by Chapter 241 of the Revised Statutes Annotated, as amended.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to increase the hourly rate for town labor to \$2.50.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to increase town officers' salaries as recommended in the budget.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to move the Town Clerk's Office from its present location on land of Josephine Crowe to a new location adjacent to the Community Building.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to repair and improve the water and septic systems of the Community Building.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the withdrawal from the Revenue Sharing Fund established under the provisions of the State and Local Assistance Act of 1972 for use as setoffs against budgeted appropriations for the following specific purposes and in amounts indicated herewith, or take any other action hereon:

Appropriation		Amount
Town Officers' Salaries		\$1,000.00
Town Officers' Expenses		1,250.00
Health Department		
Ambulance Service	\$100.00	
Home Health Service	167.00	
Mental Health Service	309.00	
Cottage Hospital	<u>450.00</u>	
		1,026.00
Town Buildings' Improvements		1,000.00
Soil Survey		<u>1,100.00</u>
		\$5,376.00

(A public hearing will be held February 7, 1977 to provide an opportunity for comment on the possible uses of revenue sharing funds.)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to make any alterations in the amount of money to be raised and appropriated for the ensuing year as recommended in the budget and will vote to raise and appropriate all sums so determined.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the Town Report.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money for current indebtedness in anticipation of taxes collected in the year 1977 and to be paid therefrom.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a discount on current property taxes paid before a date set by the Selectmen if all previous taxes are paid; and to see if the Town will vote to set the amount of said discount.

ARTICLE 13. *By Petition.* To see if the Town will vote to permit the Community Building to be used for the playing of beano and card games.

ARTICLE 14. *By Petition.* Are you in favor of making the present Benton Zoning Ordinance less restrictive?

ARTICLE 15. *By Petition.* Are you in favor of abolishing Benton's Zoning Ordinance as proposed by petition of the voters of this town?

Given under our hands and seal at Benton this 31st day of January, A.D. 1977.

JAMES W. ELLIOTT
WILLIAM J. HARRIS
JAMES J. PAGE
Selectmen of Benton

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1976

Title of Appropriation:	Amount	Receipts and Reim- bursements	Expenditures	Unexpended Balance	Overdraft
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Town Officers' Salaries	750.00		694.00	56.00	
Town Officers' Expenses	1,000.00		1,519.42		519.42
Election and Registration	1,200.00		1,104.00	96.00	
Town Buildings	175.00		188.16		13.16
Police Department	30.00		30.00		
Fire Department	200.00		304.78		75.49
Blister Rust	157.00	29.29 ¹	157.00		
Insurance	500.00		652.58		152.58
Planning	145.00		1,121.70		976.70
Health Department	1,029.50		1,029.50		
Vital Statistics	10.00			10.00	
Solid Waste Disposal	800.00		213.75	586.25	
Town Maintenance—Summer	2,500.00		1,521.17	978.83	
Town Maintenance—Winter	3,500.00		3,994.86		494.86
Town Road Aid	159.23		159.23		
Town Poor	100.00			100.00	
Cemeteries	250.00		87.75	162.25	
Interest on Temporary Loans	350.00		143.26	206.74	
Tax Maps	100.00			100.00	
School Appropriation:	47,294.71		40,520.00	6,774.71	
County Tax Assessment:	3,744.26		3,744.26		
	<u>\$63,994.70</u>	<u>\$29.29</u>	<u>\$57,185.42</u>	<u>\$9,070.78</u>	<u>\$2,232.21</u>
				<u>-2,232.21</u>	
				<u>\$6,838.57</u>	

NET UNEXPENDED BALANCE

¹ State Reimbursement—expenses

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF BENTON

Estimates of Revenue for the Year 1977 Compared with Actual Revenue for the Year 1976

SOURCES OF REVENUE	1976 Actual	1977 Estimated
From State of New Hampshire:		
Interest and Dividends Tax	\$ 1,726.10	\$ 1,800.00
Savings Bank Tax	85.70	100.00
Meals and Rooms Tax	1,997.92	2,000.00
Reim. A/C Business Profits Tax	1,035.68	1,087.00
Highway Subsidy	2,286.52	2,287.44
Class V Maintenance Allotment	1,261.99	1,264.82
National Forest Reserve (½)	2,823.46	3,000.00
Reim. A/C State and Federal Forest Land		7,691.33
Reim. A/C Forest Fire Expenses	29.29	
From Local Sources:		
Dog Licenses and Penalties	133.00	125.00
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	3,782.46	2,800.00
Pistol Permits	14.00	
Interest on Taxes and Deposits	672.29	500.00
Income from Trust Funds	266.53	263.25
Resident Taxes	1,150.00	1,150.00
Yield Taxes	5,241.54	225.00
Rent of Town Property		313.94
From Federal Sources:		
Revenue Sharing	<u>1,029.50</u>	<u>5,376.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES FROM ALL SOURCES EXCEPT PROPERTY TAXES	\$23,535.98	\$29,983.78
Amount to be Raised by Property Taxes	41,907.88	44,964.64
TOTAL REVENUES		\$74,948.42

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF BENTON

Estimates of Expenditures for the Year 1977 Compared with Actual Expenditures for the Year 1976

PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	1976 Actual	1977 Estimated
Current Maintenance Expenses:		
Town Officers' Salaries	\$ 694.00	\$ 1,000.00*
Town Officers' Expenses	1,519.42	1,250.00*
Election and Registration Expenses	1,104.00	300.00
Town Buildings' Expenses	188.16	200.00
Police Department	30.00	30.00
Fire Department	304.78	200.00
Blister Rust Control	157.00	
Insurance	652.58	650.00
Planning	1,121.70	159.00
Health Department		
Ambulance Service	100.00*	100.00*
Home Health Service	167.00*	167.00*
Mental Health Service	312.50*	309.00*
Cottage Hospital	450.00*	450.00*
Solid Waste Disposal	213.75	925.00
Town Road Maintenance—Summer	1,521.17	2,500.00
Town Road Maintenance—Winter	3,994.86	3,500.00
Town Road Aid	159.23	158.42
Cemeteries	87.75	250.00
Debt Service:		
Interest on Temporary Loans	143.26	200.00
Capital Outlay:		
Town Buildings' Improvements		1,000.00*
Soil Survey		1,100.00*
TOTAL TOWN EXPENDITURES	<u>\$12,921.16</u>	<u>\$14,448.42</u>
School Appropriation:	40,520.00	56,500.00
County Assessment:	<u>3,744.26</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$57,215.42	\$74,948.42

* Revenue Sharing Funds. A public hearing will be held on February 7, 1977 to provide an opportunity for comment on the possible uses of revenue sharing funds.

REVENUE SHARING ACCOUNT

Balance as of June 30, 1976	\$1,114.00
Revenue Sharing Funds Received from July 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976	1,624.00
Interest Received or Credits (July 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976)	26.00
Funds Released from Obligations	<u>- 0 -</u>
Total	\$2,764.00
Funds Returned to ORS	<u>- 0 -</u>
Total Funds Available	\$2,764.00
Total Amount Expended	<u>- 0 -</u>
Balance as of December 31, 1976	\$2,764.00

BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 1976

ASSETS

Cash:

In Hands of Treasurer:

Cash	\$18,393.14
Yield Tax Deposits	160.26
Revenue Sharing Deposits	<u>2,764.66</u>

\$21,318.06

Accounts Due to the Town:

Due from State:

Joint Construction Accounts	
1975 Town Road Aid	\$ 193.42
1976 Town Road Aid	1,220.76
Reim. A/C State and Federal	
Forest Lands—1976	<u>5,691.33</u>

7,105.51

Unredeemed Taxes:

Levy of 1974 36.49

Uncollected Taxes:

Levy of 1976 10,777.87

TOTAL ASSETS

\$39,237.93

LIABILITIES

Accounts Owed by the Town:

Unexpended Revenue Sharing Funds	\$ 2,764.66
Bond & Debt Retirement Taxes	873.59
Yield Tax Deposits	160.26
School District Tax Payable	<u>29,239.85</u>

\$33,038.36

Joint Construction Accounts:

Unexpended Balance in State Treasury 1,414.28

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$34,452.64

Current Surplus:

4,785.29

\$39,237.93

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF VALUATION

	1976	1975
Description of Property:		
Land	\$ 520,820.00	\$ 432,715.00
Buildings	827,500.00	777,525.00
Mobile Homes—Personal Property	17,825.00	30,050.00
Public Utilities—Electric	28,780.00	25,912.00
TOTAL VALUATION	\$1,394,925.00	\$1,266,202.00
Exemptions—Elderly:	10,800.00	7,200.00
NET VALUATION ON WHICH TAX RATE IS COMPUTED	\$1,384,125.00	\$1,259,002.00

STATEMENT OF ASSESSED TAXES

Total Appropriations:		
Net Town Appropriations	(\$ 8,491.56)	(\$ 4,924.83)
Net School Appropriations	47,294.71	34,458.14
County Tax Assessment	3,744.26	3,120.00
	\$ 42,547.41	\$ 35,653.31
Reimbursement A/C		
Business Profits Tax:	1,036.00	987.00
	\$ 41,511.41	\$ 34,661.31
War Service Tax Credits:	1,000.00	700.00
Overlay:	396.47	389.35
TOTAL TAX COMMITMENT	\$ 42,907.88	\$ 35,755.66

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
SUMMARY OF PROPERTY, RESIDENT AND YIELD TAXES**

DEBITS

Taxes Committed to Collector and Uncollected Taxes 1/1/76:	Levy of 1976	Levy of 1975
Property Taxes	\$41,907.88	\$7,877.27
Resident Taxes	1,110.00	310.00
Added Resident Taxes	40.00	
Yield Taxes	5,178.54	63.00
Interest		384.75
Penalties	17.00	28.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$48,253.42	\$8,663.02

CREDITS

Remittances to Treasurer:		
Property Taxes	\$30,356.70	\$7,858.81
Resident Taxes	870.00	280.00
Yield Taxes	5,178.54	63.00
Interest		384.75
Penalties	17.00	28.00
	<u>36,422.24</u>	<u>8,614.56</u>
Abatements:		
Property Taxes		18.46
Resident Taxes	10.00	30.00
Discount Allowed:	1,043.31	
Uncollected Taxes 12/31/76:		
Property Taxes	10,507.87	
Resident Taxes	270.00	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$48,253.42	\$8,663.02

SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1976

DEBITS

	Tax Sales on Account of Levies of:	
	1975	1974
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes 1/1/76		
Taxes Sold During Year	\$2,055.60	\$1,116.56
Interest Collected	146.76	186.98
Redemption Costs	<u> </u>	<u>23.20</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	\$2,202.36	\$1,326.74

CREDITS

Remittances to Treasurer:		
Redemptions	\$2,055.60	\$1,080.07
Interest and Costs	146.76	210.18
Unredeemed Taxes 12/31/76:	<u> </u>	<u>36.49</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	\$2,202.36	\$1,326.74

Respectfully submitted,

MAXINE M. TYLER
Tax Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S UNCOLLECTED TAXES
As of December 31, 1976

Name	Property	Resident
Aldrich, Jacob W. & Jacqueline J.	\$ 542.10	\$
*Azzarito, Frank et al	235.91	
Basnar, Reginald H. & Barbara	93.00	
*Bear Ridge Hunting Club	358.05	
Bierig, Robert W. & Sandra T.	95.17	
Boudreaault Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	9.90	
Boutin, Albert J. & Mabel E.	288.30	20.00
Boutin, John Sr.	38.75	
Boutin, John Jr. & Albert J.	216.07	
Boutin, John Jr. & Iona V.	430.90	
Boutin, Melinda C.	281.32	
Boutin, Paul L. & Doris E.	120.50	
Boutin, Ronald G. & April R.	235.82	20.00
Corrigan, James	275.90	
Cram, Robert & Marcia		20.00
DeRusha, Kenneth R.	24.80	
Drew, Frank & Sharon	55.80	
Driscoll, Diane		10.00
Elliott, Benjamin et al	14.57	
Elliott, Bruce A. & Dorothy	31.00	20.00
Elliott, John G. Jr. & Catherine L.	411.43	
*Enderson, Bruce & Jeanette		20.00
Fenn, Francis	238.16	
Fenn, Thomas F. & J. Frances	1,336.57	
Fernald, Robert & Amy	32.86	
Fox, James & Monika	316.20	20.00
Girard, Raymond	31.00	
*Goldburg, Richard	14.57	
*Gregory, P. R. Jr. & Grace M.	49.12	
Harris, Michael E. & Helena L.	154.22	
Harris, Thomas & Sarajeon	100.75	
Harris, William J. & Seraphene R.	644.71	
Higgins, David A. & Joan C.	77.50	20.00
Heurlin, Ronald & Linda		20.00
Hudson, Bernard G. & Christina E.	82.93	

Johnson, Merrill et al	44.33	
*Kelley, Marjorie A. Trustee	89.28	
Kinal, Walter & Alice	102.30	
Klingler, Wayne & Barbara	358.36	
Lucier, Richard G. & Helen M.	19.68	
*Markham, Mary L. et al	81.22	
Mason, Lloyd A. & Laura E.	33.70	
Mayo, Joseph P. & Judith A.	82.15	
Mead, Norman & Elsie	181.68	
Morell, Irene		10.00
Mossey, Richard & Noella		20.00
Nickles, Raymond C. & Elizabeth P.	509.02	10.00
*Noble, John & Pauline	10.23	
Noble, Robert L. & Helen	96.72	
*Oak, Ivan R. & Evelyn D.	115.63	
Peters, Lester G.	116.56	
Rafferty, James J.	461.90	
Richardson, Charles H. & Joyce E.	24.80	
Rich, E. Vernon & Arline P.		20.00
Rich, Sylvia L.		10.00
Rodman, Richard L.		10.00
Saffo, Richard E. & Stephanie C.	601.00	
Scott, Barbara		10.00
Smith, Alfred W. & Norma R.	15.50	
Tipping, James R. & Diane M.	318.99	
Wellington, Weston J.	7.44	
White, James R. & Doreen W.	399.50	
Young, Cheryl D.		10.00
TOTALS	<u>\$10,507.87</u>	<u>\$270.00</u>

*Paid after 1/1/77

TREASURER'S REPORT AND DETAILED SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

From Tax Collector:

	Levy of 1974	
Tax Sale Redemptions	\$ 1,080.07	
Interest and Costs	<u>210.18</u>	
		\$ 1,290.25

	Levy of 1975	
Property Taxes	\$ 7,858.81	
Property Taxes Abated	18.46	
Property Tax Interest and Costs	381.46	
Resident Taxes	280.00	
Resident Taxes Abated	30.00	
Resident Tax Penalties	28.00	
Yield Taxes	63.00	
Yield Tax Interest	<u>3.29</u>	
		8,663.02

	Levy of 1976	
Property Taxes	\$30,356.70	
Resident Taxes	870.00	
Resident Tax Abated	10.00	
Resident Tax Penalties	17.00	
Yield Taxes	<u>5,178.54</u>	
		36,432.24

From Town Clerk:

1975 Motor Vehicle Permits	\$ 8.96	
1976 Motor Vehicle Permits	3,773.50	
1975 Dog Licenses	9.00	
1976 Dog Licenses and Penalties	<u>124.00</u>	
		3,915.46

From Constable:

Pistol Permits		14.00
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From Trust Funds:

For Cemeteries	\$ 176.78	
For Highways	<u>89.75</u>	266.53

From Revenue Sharing Funds: 1,029.50

From Interest on Deposits: 32.36

From Lafayette National Bank:

Tax Anticipation Note 6,000.00

From State of New Hampshire:

Interest and Dividends Tax	\$ 1,726.10	
Savings Bank Tax	85.70	
Meals and Rooms Tax	1,997.92	
Highway Subsidy	2,286.52	
Class V Highway Allotment	1,261.99	
Reimbursement A/C Business Profits Tax	1,035.68	
Reimbursement A/C Forest Fire Expenses	29.29	
Refund Bond & Debt Retirement Tax	10.50	
National Forest Reserve	<u>5,646.92</u>	
		<u>14,080.62</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$71,723.98

Balance on Hand 1/1/76 13,114.52

\$84,838.50

Less Selectmen's Orders 66,470.08

\$18,368.42

Checks Void 24.72

Balance on Hand 12/31/76 \$18,393.14

ACCOUNTS ON DEPOSIT

Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank:

Yield Tax Deposits		\$ 160.26
Revenue Sharing Funds		
Balance on Hand 1/1/76	\$ 1,183.44	
Received During Year	2,542.00	
Interest Added	<u>68.72</u>	
	\$ 3,794.16	
Withdrawn During Year	<u>1,029.50</u>	
Balance on Hand 12/31/76		<u>2,764.66</u>
		\$ 2,924.92

Respectfully submitted,

PRISCILLA T. BOUTIN
Treasurer

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS

Town Officers' Salaries:

James J. Page, Selectman	\$ 148.00
James W. Elliott, Selectman	132.00
William J. Harris, Selectman	107.00
Jacob W. Aldrich, Town Clerk	107.00
David Harris, Trustee	25.00
Maxine Tyler, Tax Collector	75.00
Priscilla Boutin, Treasurer	75.00
Robert E. Longpre, Auditor	25.00

\$ 694.00

Town Officers' Expenses:

Postage	\$ 139.57
Dues	59.00
Supplies	194.46
Town Reports	428.40
Motor Vehicle Fees	248.00
Phone	86.24
Dog Licenses	18.49
Bonds	105.00
Mileage	57.01
Bi-Centennial	75.50
Revenue Sharing Adv.	58.05
Meals	49.70

1,519.42

Election and Registration:

Advertisements	\$ 32.00
James J. Page, Selectman	80.00
James W. Elliott, Selectman	80.00
William J. Harris, Selectman	80.00
Iona Boutin, Ballot Clerk	48.00
Jacob W. Aldrich, Town Clerk	80.00
Kate Goodwin, Ballot Clerk	48.00
Bruce J. Enderson, Moderator	80.00
Laura Mason, Supervisor	192.00
Jeanette Enderson, Supervisor	192.00
John G. Elliott, Sr., Supervisor	192.00

1,104.00

Planning:

North Country Council	\$ 145.00
Advertisements	<u>976.70</u>

1,121.70

Community Building:

Electric	\$ 126.16
Insurance	<u>62.00</u>

188.16

Police Department:

Thomas F. Fenn, Constable	30.00
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Blister Rust Control:

Appropriation	157.00
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Insurance:**Franconia Insurance Agency:**

Workmen's Compensation	\$ 302.00
General Liability	<u>350.58</u>

652.58

Health Department:

North Country Home Health	\$ 167.00
Cottage Hospital Area Ambulance	100.00
White Mt. Community Services	312.50
Cottage Hospital	<u>450.00</u>

1,029.50

Town Dump:

Powers Rubbish Removal	213.75
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Town Road Maintenance:

Summer Equipment hire	\$ 1,331.92
Summer supplies	<u>189.25</u>

1,521.17

Town Road Maintenance:

Winter Equipment hire	\$ 3,539.91	
Winter supplies	<u>454.95</u>	
		3,994.86

Town Road Aid:

Appropriation		159.23
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Cemeteries:

Equipment and labor	\$ 72.00	
Flowers	<u>15.75</u>	
		87.75

Abatements:

1975 Property taxes	\$ 18.46	
1975 Resident taxes	<u>40.00</u>	
		58.46

Interest:

Lafayette National Bank		143.26
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Tax Anticipation Notes:

Lafayette National Bank		6,000.00
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Payments to State:

Bond & Debt Retirement Tax		402.74
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Payments to County:

1976 County Tax		3,744.26
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Payments to School:

Appropriation	\$40,520.00	
½ National Forest Reserve	<u>2,823.46</u>	
		<u>43,343.46</u>

Total Payments**\$66,470.08**

TOWN AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts of the Tax Collector, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Trustees of Trust Funds, and Selectmen and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

January 27, 1977

ROBERT E. LONGPRE
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS
For the Year Ending December 31, 1976

There are in the custody of the Trustees the following Trust Funds bequeathed to the Town of Benton. The income shown during the year 1976 is distributed as specified by the donors of the funds.

Name of Fund	Amount	Distribution of Income		
		Cemetery	School	Highway
Ira Whitcher	\$ 500.00	\$ 37.48	\$	\$
Whitcher & Mann	500.00	20.00	8.74	8.74
Whitcher & Mann	1,000.00	40.00	17.48	17.48
Whitcher & Mann	1,750.00		63.74	
Whitcher & Mann	1,750.00			63.74
Ira Whitcher	13.19	.99		
L. H. Parker	200.00	Field Not Rented		
J. C. Speed	132.11	9.91		
Geo. H. Clark	190.27	14.25		
Whitcher & Kendall	189.69	14.22		
Ella Mann	50.00	3.75		
Kendrick Howe	50.00	3.75		
Wm. T. Torsey	45.46	3.40		
Sam'l Annis	45.46	3.40		
Jonithan Davis	45.46	3.40		
Isabella Tyler	50.00	3.75		
D. M. & K. L. Howe	100.00	7.50		
Maude & Lee. B. McKean	100.00	7.50		
Library Fund			10.26	
	<u>\$6,711.64</u>	<u>\$173.30</u>	<u>\$100.22</u>	<u>\$89.96</u>

The above funds are deposited in savings accounts or invested in government bonds which are stored in a safe deposit box at the Lafayette National Bank (Lisbon Branch) at Lisbon, N. H.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID W. HARRIS
JOSEPH N. BOUTIN
SCOTT RODEN
Trustees of Trust Funds

REPORT OF DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF AND TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Since its beginning in 1893, the State Forestry Department has recognized the fact that forest fire prevention and suppression is a joint state and town or city responsibility. Local authorities recommend names of persons to the State Forester, who appoints one person as town or city fire warden and several other persons as town or city deputy fire wardens to a three year term.

The local forest fire warden controls the kindling of all outside fires, when the ground is not covered with snow, by issuing a written permit for kindling a fire. Permits are only issued at such times and in such places as the fire warden deems as safe.

The State Forest Fire Service trains the local forest fire organization in modern forest fire prevention and suppression tactics. The State also provides backup personnel and equipment for suppression and prevention activities.

The combination of State and local forces has resulted in one of the smallest acreage loss due to forest fires in the United States for the past 20 years.

1976 Forest Fire Statistics

	No. of Fires	No. of Acres
State	746	294
District	18	33
Town	0	0

Number of permits issued—61

JOHN Q. RICARD
District Fire Chief

WILLIAM J. HARRIS
Forest Fire Warden

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Year Ending June 30, 1976

DISTRICT OFFICERS

School Board

Mrs. Priscilla Boutin, Chairperson	Term Expires 1979
Mrs. Jeannette Enderson	Term Expires 1977
Mrs. Margaret Elliott	Term Expires 1978

Other District Officers

Mr. James Page	Moderator
Mrs. Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Mrs. Iona Boutin	Auditor
Mrs. Jean Longetre	Clerk
Mr. Scott Roden	Truant Officer
Mr. Norman H. Mullen	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Harold J. Haskins	Assistant Superintendent of Schools

**SCHOOL WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Benton qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community Building in said district on the 8th day of March, 1977, at 8:30 o'clock in the afternoon, to act upon the following subjects:

1. To choose a Moderator for the coming year.
2. To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
3. To choose one Member of the School Board for a term of three years.
4. To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
5. To determine and appoint the salaries of the School Board and Truant Officer, and fix the compensation of other officers or agents of the district.
6. To hear reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.
7. To choose Agents, Auditors, and Committees, in relation to any subject embraced in this warrant.
8. To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district, and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town.
9. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

MRS. PRISCILLA BOUTIN
MRS. JEANETTE ENDERSON
MRS. MARGARET ELLIOTT
School Board of Benton

**BUDGET FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF BENTON 1977-1978**

Item	Adopted Budget 1976-77	Proposed Budget 1977-78
100 ADMINISTRATION		
110 Salaries of District Officers	\$ 241.00	\$ 241.00
135 Contracted Services	16.00	16.00
190 Administration Expenses	200.00	200.00
500 TRANSPORTATION		
535 Contracted Transportation	6,500.00	6,500.00
800 FIXED CHARGES		
855 Insurance	300.00	300.00
1400 OUTGOING TRANSFER ACCOUNTS		
1477.1 Tuition In-State	43,052.66	52,837.34
1477.3 Supervisory Union Expenses	518.48	551.17
Contingency Fund	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>\$50,878.14</u>	<u>\$60,695.51</u>

ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1977-1978

Balance on Hand June 30, 1976	\$ 0.00
State Aid:	
Sweepstakes	1,216.28
Federal Aid:	
National Forest Reserve	2,282.83
Trust Fund Income	50.00
Estimated Amount to be Raised	
by 1977 Property Taxes	<u>57,146.40</u>
Total Appropriation	\$60,695.51

We recommend that the District adopt the Proposed budget and raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,695.51 for the school year 1977-1978.

School Board of Benton
MRS. PRISCILLA BOUTIN
MRS. JEANNETTE ENDERSON
MRS. MARGARET ELLIOTT

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move that the District raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district, the sum of \$60,695.51.

REVISED INCOME FOR 1976-1977

Unencumbered Balance	\$ 34.32
Sweepstakes	1,216.28
National Forest Reserve	2,282.83
Trust Fund Income	<u>50.00</u>
Total Revenue and Credits	3,583.43
Amount to be Raised by 1976 taxes	<u>47,294.71</u>
Total	\$50,878.14

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1976

		Adopted Budget 1975-1976	Paid Out 1975-1976
100	ADMINISTRATION		
110.1	Salaries of District Officers	\$ 65.00	\$ 70.00
135	Contracted Services	10.00	
190	Other Expenses		
.1	District Officers	200.00	9.04
500	TRANSPORTATION		
535	Contracted Services	5,500.00	5,605.98
1400	OUTGOING TRANSFER ACCOUNTS		
1477	Expenditures to Other School Districts, Public Academies, or Administrative Units in the State		
.1	Tuition	32,040.00	32,702.10
.3	District Share of Supervisory Union Expenses	515.11	*515.11
1478	Expenditures to School Districts or Administrative Units in Another State		
.1	Tuition	1,121.00	1,375.00
.2	Transportation	1,121.00	
	CONTINGENCY FUND	50.00	
	CASH ON HAND AT END OF YEAR, JUNE 30, 1976		
3001	General Fund		34.32
	TOTAL	\$40,622.11	\$40,311.55

*This figure includes the amount of \$168.30, the district's share of the superintendent's salary.

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS
AND PAYMENTS**

July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976

Receipts

Cash on Hand July 1, 1975	\$ 31.05
Revenue from Local Sources	
Current Appropriation	37,020.00
Other Revenue from Local Sources	
Earnings from Permanent Funds & Endowments	89.75
Other Revenue	5.00
Revenue from State Sources	
Sweepstakes	882.92
Revenue from Federal Sources	
National Forest Reserve	<u>2,282.83</u>
	\$40,311.55

Payments

Orders of School Board	40,277.23
Cash on Hand at End of Year, June 30, 1976	<u>34.32</u>
	\$40,311.55

**REPORT OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT TREASURER
Fiscal Year July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976
School District of Benton**

SUMMARY

Cash on Hand July 1, 1975		\$	31.05
Received from Selectmen			
Current Appropriation	\$37,020.00		
Revenue from State Sources	882.92		
Revenue from Federal Sources	2,282.83		
Received as Income from Trust Fund	89.75		
Received from all Other Sources	<u>5.00</u>		
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>40,280.50</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE			
FOR FISCAL YEAR			\$40,311.55
LESS SCHOOL BOARD ORDERS PAID			<u>40,277.23</u>
BALANCE ON HAND JUNE 30, 1976		\$	34.32

July 8, 1976

Maxine Tyler
District Treasurer

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that we have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and other financial records of the treasurer of the school district of **Benton** of which the above is a true summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976 and find them correct in all respects.

July 13, 1976

Iona V. Boutin
Auditor

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I herewith submit my twelfth annual report to the voters of the Benton School District.

On November 29, 1975 President Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, P.L. 94-142. With the passage of this act, the role of the federal government in the education of the handicapped has significantly increased, and the responsibilities of local and state education agencies has been dramatically altered. The law includes provisions designed to ensure that all handicapped children have a free and appropriate public education, to ensure that all rights of handicapped children and their parents are protected, and to assist state and local education agencies in providing this education.

Immediately, several questions come to the forefront as to:

Who is Handicapped?

"Handicapped Children" means those children evaluated by qualified professionals as being mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired, or children with specific learning disabilities. However, within each state, there is a statutory limit of twelve percent on the number of handicapped children identified and a two percent limit on specific disabilities.

What is a free appropriate public education?

A free appropriate public education refers to special education and related services which (a) are provided at public expense under public supervision and direction and without charge, (b) meet the standards of the state educational agency, (c) include preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education, and (d) are provided in conformity with an individualized education program.

What is an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

The term IEP means a written statement (program) for each handicapped child which includes: (a) statement of present levels of educational performance, (b) statement of annual goals, including short term instructional objectives, (c) statement of specific educational services to be provided, (d) statement regarding extent to which child will be able to participate in regular programs, (e) projected date for initiation and anticipated duration of such services, and (f) appropriate objective criteria and

evaluation procedures for determining, at least on an annual basis, whether instructional objectives are being met.

These are but a few questions that are being posed relative to the new law. It should be obvious to all concerned that with federal intervention in the area of handicapped education we can expect guidelines that will be political rather than educational in nature, and, generally we can expect another bureaucratic monster.

More importantly, we should not forget that public education should concern itself with the entire spectrum of our society from the very gifted to the severely handicapped. At present, we seem to be applying our energies and resources to the handicapped and letting the gifted fend for themselves. A proper balance should, and must be maintained, in order to guarantee that the people who will be providing leadership in our society in the future will have the same educational opportunity as anyone else.

The Benton School Budget for 1977-78 shows an increase of \$9,817.37 over the current budget. A breakdown of the increase is as follows: tuition \$9,784.63 and Supervisory Union \$32.69.

Our student population is divided in the following grades for 1977-78:

Kindergarten	2	Grade 7	4
Grade 1	6	Grade 8	2
Grade 2	4	Grade 9	6
Grade 3	5	Grade 10	3
Grade 4	3	Grade 11	3
Grade 5	6	Grade 12	4
Grade 6	8		

Kindergarten 2 @ \$400.06	\$ 800.12
Elementary 32 @ \$800.12	25,603.84
Junior High 6 @ \$869.35	5,216.10
Senior High 16 @ \$1,326.08	<u>21,217.28</u>
	\$52,837.34

It might be well to indicate in this report the dilemma in attempting to budget for tuition students a year in advance. The following chart is our current enrollment as compared to our budgeted enrollment:

	Budgeted	Attending
Kindergarten	6	6
Elementary	29	30
Junior High	9	8
Senior High	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	53	54

I wish to thank the school board and the voters of Benton for their support during the past year.

Respectfully,

NORMAN H. MULLEN
Superintendent of Schools

**SUPERVISORY UNION #23
REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT'S AND
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY**

Section 5, Chapter 243, Laws of 1953 of the State of New Hampshire requires that school district annual reports show the total amount paid to the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

One-half of the supervisory union expenses is prorated among the several school districts of the union on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of Supervisory Union #23, during the 1976-1977 school year, will receive a salary of \$24,300.00 made up as follows: \$2,500.00 to be paid by the State Department of Education and \$21,800.00 prorated among the several school districts. The Assistant Superintendent will receive a salary of \$18,450.00 which is made up as follows: \$2,500.00 to be paid by the State Department of Education and \$15,950.00 prorated among the several school districts. Allowance for travel within the union for the Superintendent is \$3,000.00 and for the Assistant Superintendent, \$2,000.00 also prorated as stated above.

The table below shows the proration of salaries and travel to each school district:

	Superintendent	
	Salary	Travel
Bath	\$ 1,105.26	\$ 152.10
Benton	172.22	23.70
Haverhill Cooperative	10,058.52	1,384.20
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	6,882.26	947.10
Monroe	1,371.22	188.70
Piermont	1,360.32	187.20
Warren	850.20	117.00
	<u>\$21,800.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

	Assistant Superintendent	
	Salary	Travel
Bath	\$ 808.66	\$ 101.40
Benton	126.01	15.80
Haverhill Cooperative	7,359.33	922.80
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	5,035.42	631.40
Monroe	1,003.25	125.80
Piermont	995.28	124.80
Warren	622.05	78.00
	<u>\$15,950.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>

Norman H. Mullen
Superintendent of Schools

Marriages Registered in the Town of Benton, N.H. for the Year Ending December 31, 1976

Date of Marriage	Name of Bride and Groom	Residence	Names of Bride's and Groom's Parents	Officiant
Oct. 31, 1976	Patti L. Lugenbeel	Colorado Springs	Ethle I. Rhodes	Karl T. Bruckner Justice of the Peace
	Wayne D. Aldrich	Benton	Charly M. Stettler Jacqueline J. Aldrich Jacob W. Aldrich	

Deaths Registered in the Town of Benton, N.H. for the Year Ending December 31, 1976

Date of Death and Name of Deceased	Age	Place of Birth	Name of Father	Name of Mother
January 13, 1976 Walter B. Helme	85	New Hampshire	Charles W. Helme	Emma Ames



